



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development  
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508  
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Deborah Drbal Lincoln, Nebraska (402) 437-5558

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PUMPS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS INTO RURAL NEBRASKA

**Lincoln, Neb., September 30, 2004**—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has awarded this fiscal year, over \$760,000 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) funds to 12 Nebraska recipients. The dollars will help create jobs and improve economic opportunities in rural areas of Nebraska.

The RBEG program facilitates and finances the development of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas by establishing small business revolving loan funds; acquiring land, buildings, and infrastructure to enhance business development; or by providing technical assistance. RBEG recipients this fiscal year are:

- **NOAH's Service Sertoma Club**, Crete received \$20,000 to help expand Noah's Assistance Dogs' services to include animal assisted therapy and a canine crisis response team. Technical assistance will be provided via Animal Assisted Therapy/Crisis Response Team trainings to a statewide, rural-based business audience. Expanded services will afford mental healthcare providers opportunities to better serve the public that will create jobs and new opportunities within the mental healthcare practices. This project will serve 88 non metro Nebraska counties.
- **Knox County Nebraska**, Center awarded \$30,000 to provide technical assistance in a program of "Value Added Agriculture Study" to be conducted in an 18 county area of northeast Nebraska. Funds will hire a consultant to identify specific opportunities for value added agriculture through consultation with industry agri-leaders, agri-businesses and agricultural organizations. The program would be used to recognize opportunities for attracting new and expanding industries into rural northeast Nebraska that would add value to existing agricultural products and bi-products which would in turn create an estimated 20 jobs.
- **Nemaha County Development Alliance**, Auburn to utilize \$31,300 for technical assistance in the form of a Youth Entrepreneurship Program of in class instruction, to create and deliver a full service one-on-one mentorship and assistance program designed to directly assist local young people in exploring, researching and creating new Nemaha County businesses or acquiring local existing businesses. Approximately four jobs are expected to be created.
- **Nebraska Legal Services**, Omaha received \$31,402 for a Micro and Small Business Assistance Project. Through this project, technical assistance on legal issues will be provided to small businesses and the self-employed in rural areas via public trainings, education seminars and one-on-one individual assistance. A 27 county area will be served impacting an estimated 100 individuals.

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- **InterAsset, Inc.**, Lincoln awarded \$20,000 to provide technical assistance to 10 entrepreneurs with technology and innovation focus to receive a minimum of 40 hours each of professional business management guidance. InterAsset, Inc. will direct and manage this task with the goal of advancing rural-based and technology-related projects to a next stage of commercial viability and investment. Eighty-eight nonmetro Nebraska counties will be served.
- **Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.**, Plainview received \$40,300 that will provide for technical assistance via feasibility studies and business plans to assist in business creation. One or more rural retail stores and virtual online storefront carrying locally grown and produced products is anticipated to result from this project. These stores will market quality products to untapped consumers making it possible for smaller producers to obtain a fair market value for their produce and for the stores to survive. Project will serve six counties in northeast Nebraska.
- **Valley County Nebraska**, Ord to utilize \$50,000 for an Entrepreneurship Development Project to provide technical assistance through a Business Transfer program and a Growth Business program. Project focuses on 1) existing Valley County business owners approaching retirement to support higher percentage of these businesses successfully transferring to new owners and 2) existing Valley County businesses with growth potential to increase job creation, investment and tax base expansion. A minimum of five jobs are anticipated to be impacted in the first year from this project.
- **South Platte United Chambers of Commerce**, Hastings received \$25,000 to provide technical assistance in a 17 county area through the “South Platte Business Beyond the Farm” project. This project offers a long term economic development strategy through the formation of a “small world” network marketing the declining population communities in southwest and south central Nebraska by reinforcing the business opportunities, assets, attractions and lifestyle as they relate to business opportunity in this part of the state.
- **Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation**, Walthill will utilize \$200,000 to construct a new business incubator/commercial property in the Ho-Chunk Village Subdivision on the Winnebago Tribe reservation in Winnebago, Neb. that will be able to house four new, small, entrepreneurial commercial businesses, saving one job and creating nine.
- **Omaha Tribe of Nebraska**, Macy awarded \$200,000 will construct a new business incubator on the Omaha Tribe reservation in Macy, Neb. providing housing spaces for four new, small, entrepreneurial businesses. Four jobs saved and eighteen created are anticipated to result from this project.
- **Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD)**, Norfolk will utilize \$62,000 for two full time staff to provide technical assistance to small and emerging businesses. This staff is needed as NENEDD expands its services to the southern tier of the District. NENEDD serves 16 counties in northeast Nebraska. This project is anticipated to create 15 jobs, save 5 and to assist at least 6 businesses.

- **Central Nebraska Economic Development District**, Bassett received \$50,000 that will provide economic development, planning and technical assistance to businesses and communities by bringing them online through the Location One Information System and the Nebraska Economic Development Information Online System. These systems will help market central Nebraska. The District serves a 15 county area of central Nebraska. This project is anticipated to create and/or save 15 jobs and to assist at least 5 businesses.

For additional information contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at Rm. 152 Federal Bldg. 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508; phone (402) 437-5558, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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